

The Mount Airy News.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF AUTHENTIC NEWS DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY

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MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA.

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Highway Commission Granted More Power by Legislature

J. H. Folger Makes Hard Fight For Better Distribution of Road Funds—He Would Add 25 Per Cent Mileage to the Present System.

The past few days have been especially lively in the lower house of the legislature and the state papers give accounts of the fight J. H. Folger, Surry's representative, is making for some of the state measures that have been introduced in the legislature. One of the most lively sessions took place Monday night when the house finally passed the Senate bill giving to the Highway Commission more power in the administration of the road work in the state. Mr. Folger strongly opposed granting any more power to that body in view of the already unfair apportionment of the funds of the past to this and other counties of the state which failed to have the proper "pull" with the powers that be.

In the fight Monday night Mr. Folger was selected as one of the speakers to oppose the measure and the state press reporters say he made the most furious speech of the session. In his remarks to the members he declared he was neither socialist nor bolshevik, but the further he goes into government the more he sees the danger in departing from the people. He looked at the bill and saw in it almost the end of popular government in North Carolina.

He recounted how he had come to Raleigh several months ago with a delegation of business men and citizens of Surry County, and in his own words, "got down on my knees, put my hat under the chair, and begged for some relief. And they read funny papers and wrote notes to each other while I plead for fair treatment for my county," he thundered out to his hearers.

And he declared he did not like to bow to anybody but God Almighty. His county, he told them, was bled white and still the Highway Commission had declined to hear their pleas. But the bill went through with the aid of the administration forces and the Republican members who had been lined up by trades and "horse-swapping" of routes and funds. It is said that Clarence Call of Wilkes is supposed to line up the Republicans of the house for all the administration measures in return for certain concessions in road matters that his county has been fighting for.

Not to be defeated in the first skirmish in the fight for roads Mr. Folger has now before the house committee on roads a bill that would add 25 per cent more mileage to state system of roads and so distribute the same as to relieve those counties of the state which have been discriminated against in the ratio of mileage and hard-surface roads. And it is further required that these additional roads to be taken over shall be designated by the county governing bodies, and further that the State Highway Commission shall connect with the state roads of adjoining states which are built to the North Carolina line.

The adoption of this measure would help to bring about a better feeling with the counties in that it would give them some say about where the 25 per cent additional mileage was to be located.

The legislature has under discussion a state-wide Australian ballot law, and the contest over it bids fair to be warm. A law has been passed to require all wagons, buggies and other vehicles drawn by horses, mules or cattle to be equipped with a light while traveling the highways at night. This measure was passed by both bodies without any opposition while two years ago it was defeated in its early stages.

Mr. Folger, it will be remembered in his campaign speeches last fall, pledged himself to an effort to secure an equalization of the school funds of the state. Such a measure is now before the legislature and Mr. Folger is taking an active part in the effort to secure its passage.

Income Tax Agents Here.

Revenue Agent P. N. Lawson will be in this city Friday and Saturday to assist corporations and partnerships in filing their Federal income tax returns. J. E. Rossan will also be here on the same date to fill out returns for the state.

CARROLL COUNTY ENTERS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

Contest for Sheriff Sure to Be Hard With Bud Edwards in the Race With Several Others.

The next few months will see feverish activity among the politicians and voters of our neighboring county in Virginia, Carroll, for over there they are to hold their convention during the early summer and nominate county candidates for the election next fall. Carroll is Republican by a large majority and selection in their primary is almost equivalent to election if there is not too big a slip in the ranks. A mass convention of the Republicans was held at Hillsville last Saturday at which plans were made for holding the primary in the spring for the nomination of the officers.

The hardest fight is destined to be over the Sheriff's office. There has been a faction in Carroll for the past four years which has continued to make a fight on the present sheriff, B. M. Jett, and many think this will make it impossible for him to receive the nomination. And then he has been in poor health a good part of the time during his term of office and some of his friends do not expect him to seek the nomination for that reason.

Perhaps the most aggressive fight for the office will be made by former Sheriff Bud Edwards who is said now to be making a personal canvass of the county for the office. Sheriff Edwards was a deputy at the time of the Hillsville shooting and was named to fill out the term of Sheriff Webb, who was killed. Later he served two terms of four years each, being succeeded by Sheriff Jett. He is a brother to the late Morgan Edwards who was killed in a pistol battle with several deputies of Sheriff Jett. Edwards took an active part in the prosecution of the officers for the killing, although they were never convicted, and it is said that he is appealing to the voters to right the wrong that he contends was done his brother by not returning to office those who were in power at the time of the killing.

It is said that Sheriff Jett has the support of the party organization in the county but Sheriff Edwards was a very popular officer during his eight years of office and will make the race close and interesting for any one who goes in the field opposing him.

Boy's Presence of Mind Saves Him.

Last Thursday morning Master David Midkiff, of route two, came near having a serious accident and but for his quick wit and presence of mind perhaps would not have escaped so luckily as he did. He was taking dinner to his father who is employed on the quarry. While on the grounds before the noon hour, boy-like he paid little notice where he was walking and stepped on a trolley wire just as it started skyward with a big stone on the other end. His feet were jerked from the ground, the father's dinner spilled all over the place, and the wire had him going up, and in danger of falling from it. But he grabbed the wire with both hands and hung on with a vise grip, and hung suspended 50 feet in the air for several moments until the trolley engineer could be signalled to let him back to earth, no worse off for his experience but badly frightened after he had time to think what a narrow escape he had passed through.

Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

Interesting Items Gleaned From the Files of The Mount Airy News 21 Years Ago This Week

G. W. Samuels, a revenue agent of Surry County, was convicted in Federal Court at Greensboro for making false returns after a trial which lasted five weeks and was bitterly prosecuted and defended by able counsel for the defendant. Judge Boyd withheld sentence until cases against other officers were tried.

A girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bowman last Friday.

Jay, son of S. C. Franklin, has gone to South Carolina, where he is employed by a large lumber company.

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Hale are visiting relatives across the mountains.

Chas. W. Fulton and sister, Miss Mary, are visiting friends and relatives in Greensboro and Winston this week.

YOUNG MAN GETS SYMPATHY OF OUR PEOPLE

Stranger in Trouble is Given Help and Goes His Way—Proved a Fak.

Our people can be depended upon to respond to appeals for help and sympathy and this was the case last Saturday when a young man walked into Clint Stewart's hotel on Franklin Street and related a story of bad luck and hardship that touched his sympathy as well as that of Bob Deyerie, Herman Schafer and others that heard his tale. According to the young man he had just arrived in the city and had carried his sister to the hospital with a broken leg as a result of an auto accident near Stuart, Va. He said he was from Detroit and as he passed through Roanoke in a car he inquired the way to Salem, Va., which was near Roanoke, but the party misunderstood him and directed him to Martinsville thinking he meant Winston-Salem as his destination. Well the fellow and his sister, so he said, got on bad roads this side of Stuart and finally slipped off the road, turned the car over, and broke his sister's leg, and he had just arrived and put her in the hospital.

During the day Sunday the fellow got in touch with his parents by wire and exhibited a telegram stating that they were sending him \$100 by mail, and all the time he appeared in deep trouble and very earnest in his talk. Of course Clint and Bob and Herman gave him all the advice and assistance at their command. Sunday night he wished to learn how the condition of his sister was and he walked to the phone in the hall of the Stewart hotel and carried on a longer conversation with the doctor at the hospital about the condition of his sister and the probable outcome of her accident. And the fellows now say he carried on one of the best one-sided conversations over the phone they ever listened to.

A reporter of The News was tipped off as to the news story Monday morning and saw visions of a valuable "scoop" and human interest story that was weaved about the trouble of the two young people. The hospital was called up and interviewed and they couldn't understand what we were driving at when inquiry was made about the young woman with a broken leg, and after futile effort no trace of the sister could be found. In the meantime the young man had carried his point down at the Stewart house, gotten all the assistance he desired and went his way before it dawned upon the minds of any that all his actions were faked from the beginning. The telegraph operator remembered him borrowing two telegraph blanks, which he evidently filled out to carry out his purpose of fraud. And later to clinch his story in the minds of Clint, et al, he boldly walked up to Clint's phone and made a dumb call to the hospital right there with everybody listening at his side of the conversation.

Clint says he often runs up against folks wanting to beat a bill but this young fellow has surpassed them all in a scheme to get by without paying. He left before his fraud was discovered and no doubt will soon land in jail if he continues in his present path.

Box Supper.

A box supper will be held at Flat Rock High School Saturday night, Feb. 26. Everybody is invited to come and bring a box, plenty of money and have a big time.

Insurance Companies Fail to Reach Agreement on Losses

Inspector Visits Surry County Schools.

Miss Susan Fulgum, state inspector of elementary schools of Raleigh, N. C., visited Surry County last week and spent two days with Supt. Hendren visiting all schools of seven teachers or more and checking them as to meeting the requirements for the state rating as standard schools. She visited Franklin, Copeland, Dobson, Elkin, and Pilot Mountain, these being the only schools outside of Mount Airy having seven teachers or more in their elementary departments. Mount Airy met the requirements for a standard rating two years ago. Miss Fulgum was highly pleased with the condition of the above mentioned schools. She noted with pleasure the enthusiasm of the teaching forces and of the manifest efforts being made to meet standard requirements. Franklin made an especially fine impression on Miss Fulgum for she remarked that this school just must get in on the list another year. The teachers of this school are all of the required grade and they have all the necessary equipment except an addition to the library. Copeland too has all teachers with proper certificates but lacks some minor equipment such as additional maps for the elementary department and some library books. Dobson has one teacher holding the forbidden classification and will be able to meet the requirements next year. Elkin lacks a little library equipment which will be ordered in time for the school to go on the list this year. Pilot Mountain also seemed to meet the requirements and will no doubt be put on the list this year.

In passing Miss Fulgum noted the new schools of Little Richmond, Bryan, Flat Rock and White Plains, and seemed pleased to note that Surry County rural schools are being consolidated into these centers which promise to become standard schools. She expressed herself as being delighted with the wholesome attitude of both teachers and pupils and the fine prospect for standard school in Surry County.

Former Citizen to Return.

The many friends of Mr. Wm. S. Martin will be glad to know that he has decided to return to this city. For seven years he held responsible positions with the North Carolina Granite Corporation and resigned his position a year ago. After spending a year resting about the scenes of his boyhood in Pennsylvania he has decided to get back on the job and will again be with the Quarry. He is expected to be back not later than the first of April. Since being away the health of Mrs. Martin has much improved, her former friends will be glad to know.

Mother Sends Son to Prison.

Last Sunday afternoon Weldon Johnson, colored boy of this city, was sent back to the road camp in Durham County. The boy is serving a term for breaking in Harvey Boyd's store and had been made a trusty but last Saturday he let his desire for freedom lead him to make his escape, and he came back to his mother. He has only a few months to serve and she prevailed on him to return and finish his time. And he had been gone from his home only about two hours when two guards from Durham drove up to his home on a search for their prisoner. So Weldon is now back in camp and the guards will give him no more chance to go home until his sentence is served.

Wyrick-Taylor.

Miss Kathleen Wyrick and Mr. Haywood Taylor motored to Hillsville, Va., and were quietly married in the presence of a few friends on Monday, Feb. 21st. They immediately left for a few days visit to Greensboro, High Point and other points in North Carolina. Mrs. Taylor is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Wyrick, of this city, and is employed at Jamison's store. Mr. Taylor is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Taylor, of this city and owns an interest in the Busy Bee Cafe. Their many friends wish them much happiness.

Attorney A. D. Folger, of Dobson, was in the city for a few hours Tuesday afternoon. He is recovering from a long period of sickness, but does not expect to resume his law practice for several weeks yet.

Offer to Settle for 50 Per Cent Is Declined—Liability of Hardware Store Loss Is Denied.

Representatives of the fire insurance companies made a second visit to this city last week and had conferences with the various parties who sustained losses in the fire last December when the Schafer and Banner blocks on Main Street were destroyed.

The companies have so far failed to submit any proposals to the insured that is satisfactory. And they have denied all liability as to the loss of the Midkiff-Brannock hardware store, in which the fire is said to have originated. While here the agents of the insurance companies tendered Mr. Midkiff \$80 premium money that he had paid on his policy, which was their method of offering to take up the policy and of denying their liability. Mr. Midkiff is holding out for the insurance as written in the policy. His firm had \$5,000 insurance and says the stock inventoried around \$10,000.

The agents offered to settle with the other occupants of the buildings on a basis of 50 per cent of the face value of their policies, but this also was declined by the insured, and they are said to be holding out for the face value of the policy as all sustained losses running more than double what the insurance policies covered.

In making the offer for a 50 per cent settlement, the insurance companies say the insured violated the provisions of the policy by not keeping a full record of their transactions. If one will read the back of an insurance policy they will find a lot of requirements set out that make the policy void, if they are violated, so the insurance folks state, and it was because of failure of the insured to follow some of the rules that they are wanting to discount the loss. All those who lost in the fire would have no trouble in setting up the fact that their loss was considerably more than was covered by insurance, but the fact that they failed to keep certain records, or sets of books as required in the provisions of the policy, has caused the insurance companies to make the half price offer.

The insured parties have refused to accept the offers of the companies and unless they can get a better offer the question will doubtless have to be settled in the courts.

Standing Committees Appointed For Baraca-Philathea Convention.

The following committees have been appointed to plan for the success of the State Baraca-Philathea Convention which meets here May 26, 27 28 and 29th: Mr. C. W. Andrew is the general chairman and Mr. E. M. Linville convention treasurer; Central committee: L. P. Wrenn, chairman, John D. Thompson, D. E. Hoffman, H. M. Foy, A. G. Webb, Mrs. C. C. Hale, Miss Grace Foy, Mrs. E. G. Davis.

Finance committee: W. I. Monday, chairman, W. B. Partridge, W. W. Burke.

Reception committee: J. Graham Harrison, chairman, E. W. Faddison, W. S. Wolfe, C. P. Clarke, G. C. Lovill, Mrs. Claude Absher, Mrs. J. W. Lovill.

Music committee: E. C. Bivens, chairman, Mrs. Geo. Marshall, Mrs. Will Hollingsworth, Miss Edna Homet.

Committee on homes: The Woman's club.

Automobile committee: The Kiwanis club, and the Merchants Association.

Mr. Andrew expresses the hope that every citizen will feel like contributing in some measure to the success of this convention and serve wherever and whenever possible. If not called on tell the committee chairman where you would like to work.

First Presbyterian Church.

Bible School. 10 A. M.
Morning Worship. 11 A. M.
Evening Worship. 7:30 P. M.
Junior C. E. 8:30 P. M.
Senior C. E. 8:45 P. M.

The service Sunday will be conducted by the pastor, Rev. D. Vance Price brought a helpful message to an appreciative congregation Sunday morning. We are always glad to have Brother Price with us.